Centrally Sponsored Mid-Day Meal Scheme is applicable only to children studying in Classes-I to V.

The State had also asked for Central assistance towards cooking cost on account of mid-day meal during summer vacation of 2005 in drought-affected areas. The matter is under consideration.

Basic Science Institute

3839. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a basic Science Institute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The Government has set up two Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) in Kolkata and Pune. The classes are scheduled to start from July, 2006 in both the Institutes.

Criteria for appointment of teachers and professors

†3840. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate new criteria for reconsideration with regard to the appointment of teachers/professors in the colleges throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) A Review Committee, set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. B. Mungekar to review the National Eligibility Test (NET) for its utility, effectiveness and continuation, has given its interim report and the recommendations are as follows:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(i) So far as the postgraduate level teaching is concerned, the candidates having Ph. D. degree should be exempted from acquiring NET qualifications for being considered for the post of lecturers.

(ii) As regards the undergraduate level teaching, the candidates having M.Phil. or Ph.D. degree should be exempted from acquiring NET qualifications for being considered for the post of lecturers.

According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the above recommendation has been accepted in principle by the University Grants Commission in its meeting held on 7.4.2006.

Corruption in institutions under his Ministry

†3841. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is rampant corruption and irregularities in the institutions working under his Ministry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several Public Interest Litigations are pending in different High Courts against the Ministry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to make the functioning of all the departments of his Ministry transparent; and

(e) the details of cases pending in different courts against his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) While from time to time complaints are received against individuals working in autonomous institutions, there are no complaints of rampant corruption in these institutions under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(b) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received any notice of vigilance related Public Interest Litigations in High Courts.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.